

What is claimed is:

1. An image-forming device, comprising:

an image-forming unit that includes an image-forming portion that forms an image on a recording medium, the image-forming unit being projected down onto an area in which the image-forming unit is installed, the area being divided into a front area and a rear area in a predetermined front-to-rear direction;

an image-scanning portion that scans an image from an original document, the image-scanning portion being disposed on a front side of the image-forming unit in the predetermined front-to-rear direction, the image-scanning portion being projected in the front area, the image-forming portion forming an image on a recording medium based on image data read by the image-scanning portion;

a control panel that enables a user to control the image-scanning portion and the image-forming portion, the control panel being disposed on the front side of the image-forming unit in the predetermined front-to-rear direction, the control panel being projected in the front area; and

a cover that is provided integrally with the operating panel and that covers the image-scanning portion.

2. An image-forming device according to Claim 1, further comprising an original document supply tray disposed on a rear side of the image-scanning portion in the front-

to-rear direction at a slant to the horizontal for receiving an original document to be supplied to the image-scanning portion.

3. An image-forming device according to Claim 1,

5 wherein the image-forming unit has a front side and a rear side, the front-to-rear direction extending from the front side to the rear side, a rear-to-front direction being defined to extend from the rear side to the front side,

10 wherein the image-forming unit further includes a recording medium discharging portion that discharges a recording medium in the rear-to-front direction, the recording medium discharging portion discharging a recording medium so that the trailing edge of the discharged recording medium is farther rearward than a rear end of the image-scanning portion, while the leading edge of the discharged recording medium is farther forward than a front end of the image-scanning portion.

15 4. An image-forming device according to Claim 3, wherein the image-forming portion forms an image on a recording medium while the recording medium is conveyed in the front-to-rear direction.

20 5. An image-forming device according to Claim 1, wherein the image-forming unit further includes a recording medium supplying portion that is disposed below the image-forming portion and that accommodates a recording medium and

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supplies the recording medium to the image-forming portion.

6. An image-forming device according to Claim 1,

wherein the image-forming unit has a front side and a rear side, the front-to-rear direction extending from the front side to the rear side, a rear-to-front direction being
5 defined to extend from the rear side to the front side,

further comprising an original document feeding unit that is disposed on a rear side of the image-scanning portion and that feeds an original document to the image-scanning portion; and
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an original document discharging unit that is disposed on the rear side of the image-scanning portion and below the original document feeding unit and that discharges an original document.

7. An image-forming device according to Claim 6,
15 further comprising an original document discharge tray that receives an original document discharged from the original document discharging unit and that has a depression formed in one side edge along a widthwise direction that is
20 substantially perpendicular to the front-to-rear direction to enable a user to grip the original document on both surfaces.

8. An image-forming device according to Claim 3,
further comprising an original document feeding unit that is
25 disposed on a rear side of the image-scanning portion and

that feeds an original document; and

an original document discharging unit that is disposed on a front side of the image-scanning portion and that discharges an original document.

5 9. An image-forming device according to Claim 8, further comprising an original document discharge tray provided on the cover and capable of swinging open with respect to the control panel for receiving an original document discharged from the image-scanning portion;

10 wherein the original document discharge tray receives an original document in an open state with respect to the control panel, the original document discharge tray having an opening that enables the document to be discharged forward through the opening and the control panel to be
15 operated through the opening when the original document discharge tray is in a closed state with respect to the control panel.

 10. An image-forming device according to Claim 9, wherein the cover has a holding portion, at which the
20 original document discharge tray is held by the cover and from which the original document discharge tray separates upon receipt of an impact.

 11. An image-forming device according to Claim 1,
 wherein the image-forming unit has a front side and a
25 rear side, the front-to-rear direction extending from the

front side to the rear side, a rear-to-front direction being defined to extend from the rear side to the front side,

wherein the image-forming portion includes a developing device that forms an image by an electrophotographic method; and

wherein the image-forming unit has a front cover at the front side thereof, the front cover being openable and closable, the developing device being inserted to and removed from the image-forming unit through the opened cover.

12. An image-forming device, comprising:

an image-scanning portion that scans an image from an original document, the image-scanning portion including a document conveying portion that conveys the original document in a direction defined between a predetermined front side and a predetermined rear side of the image-scanning portion;

an image-forming unit that includes an image-forming portion that forms an image on a recording medium based on image data read by the image-scanning portion;

an original document supply tray that receives an original document to be supplied to the image-scanning portion;

an original document discharge tray that receives an original document discharged from the image-scanning portion;

a recording medium supply tray that receives a recording medium to be supplied to the image-forming portion; and

5 a recording medium discharge tray that receives a recording medium discharged from the image-forming portion;

the original document supply tray, the original document discharge tray, the recording medium discharge tray, the image-forming portion, and the recording medium supply tray being arranged in a vertical alignment.

10 13. An image-forming device according to Claim 12, wherein the image-forming portion is disposed below the recording medium discharge tray, and the recording medium supply tray is disposed below the image-forming portion.

15 14. An image-forming device according to Claim 12, wherein the recording medium supply tray is detachably provided on the image-forming unit; and

the direction in which the original document is conveyed in the image-scanning portion, the direction in which the recording medium is conveyed in the image-forming portion, and the direction in which the recording medium supply tray is attached and detached are all approximately the same direction.

20 15. An image-forming device according to Claim 12, wherein the image-scanning portion includes a document-scanning portion that scans an original document supplied

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from the original document supply tray, an inverting portion that inverts the original document, and a discharging portion that discharges the original document onto the original document discharge tray.

5 16. An image-forming device according to Claim 12, wherein the image-scanning portion is disposed on a front side of the image-forming unit;

the original document supply tray is disposed on a rear side of the image-scanning portion; and

10 the original document discharge tray is disposed below the original document supply tray.

17. An image-forming device according to Claim 12, wherein the recording medium discharge tray is disposed below the original document discharge tray.

15 18. An image-forming device according to Claim 12, wherein a front-to-rear direction is defined to extend from the front side to the rear side of the image-scanning portion, a rear-to-front direction being defined to extend from the rear side to the front side of the image-scanning portion,
20 and

wherein the document conveying portion includes:

a conveying portion that conveys the original document along a conveying path from the original document supply tray to the original document discharge tray, the
25 conveying path extending from the original document supply

tray in the rear-to-front direction and further extending in the front-to-rear direction to the original document discharge tray; and

5 a document-scanning portion that scans the original document while the original document is being conveyed along the conveying path.

19. An image-forming device, comprising:

an image-scanning portion that scans an image from an original document;

10 an image-forming unit that includes an image-forming portion that forms an image on a recording medium based on image data read by the image-scanning portion, the image-forming unit having a front side and a rear side, a front-to-rear direction being defined to extend from the front side to the rear side and a rear-to-front direction being
15 defined to extend from the rear side to the front side;

a control panel that enables a user to control the image-scanning portion and the image-forming portion, the image-scanning portion and the control panel being disposed
20 on the front side of the image-forming unit; and

a cover that is provided integrally with the operating panel and that covers the image-scanning portion.